

ASSEMBLY, No. 1344

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Holley

SYNOPSIS

Establishes grant program for school districts and charter schools to develop dual language immersion programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning dual language immersion programs in school
2 districts and charter schools and supplementing chapter 6 of Title
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the
9 State Board of Education, shall establish and administer a dual
10 language immersion program. The purpose of the program shall be
11 to award grants to school districts and charter schools to establish
12 dual language immersion programs in Chinese, Spanish, French, or
13 any other language approved by the commissioner.

14 b. Grant funds allocated under the program may be used for,
15 but not limited to, curriculum development, materials and supplies,
16 staff training, and program evaluation.

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18 2. A school district or charter school may be eligible to receive
19 a grant if:

20 a. The school district or charter school uses an instructional
21 model that provides at least 50 percent of its instruction in English
22 and 50 percent of its instruction in a language described in
23 subsection a. of section 1 of this act;

24 b. The dual language immersion program begins in
25 kindergarten or in grade one and meets any other requirements
26 established by the commissioner.

27
28 3. Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
29 commissioner shall forward to school districts and charter schools a
30 request for proposals for the establishment of a dual language
31 immersion program.

32 A school district or charter school which wants to apply to
33 participate in the grant program shall submit a proposal to the
34 commissioner in such form as prescribed by the commissioner. The
35 proposal shall include: a general description of the dual language
36 immersion program; the number of potential participants; the
37 program's potential impact on increasing biliteracy among students
38 in the school district or charter school; and any other information
39 that may be required by the commissioner.

40
41 4. The commissioner shall select grant recipients based upon
42 the quality of the proposed program and its potential to increase
43 student biliteracy. The commissioner shall select grant recipients in
44 the northern, central, and southern regions of the State and shall
45 allocate to each selected school district and charter school a grant in
46 such amount as the commissioner may deem necessary to support
47 the dual language immersion program.

1 5. There is established in the Department of Education a
2 nonlapsing revolving fund to be known as the Dual Language
3 Immersion Program Fund. The fund shall be used to provide grants
4 under the dual language immersion program, and shall be credited
5 with all moneys appropriated by the Legislature, any gifts, grants,
6 or donations made to the fund, and any other available revenue.
7 Interest received on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the
8 fund.

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10 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to establish a
16 dual language immersion program. Under the program, the
17 commissioner will provide grants to school districts and charter
18 schools to develop dual language immersion programs in Chinese,
19 Spanish, French, or any other language approved by the
20 commissioner.

21 Under the bill, a school district or charter school may be eligible
22 to receive funds if it uses an instructional model that provides at
23 least 50 percent of its instruction in English and 50 percent of its
24 instruction in Chinese, Spanish, French, or any other language
25 approved by the commissioner. The program would have to begin
26 in kindergarten or in grade one and would need to meet any other
27 requirements established by the commissioner.

28 The bill directs a school district or charter school which wants to
29 apply to participate in the grant program to submit a proposal to the
30 commissioner. The commissioner will select grant recipients in the
31 northern, central, and southern regions of the State and would
32 allocate to each selected recipient a grant in such amount as the
33 commissioner deems necessary to support the dual language
34 immersion program.

35 The bill establishes the Dual Language Immersion Program Fund
36 as a nonlapsing revolving fund in the Department of Education to
37 finance the grant program. The fund will be credited with all
38 moneys appropriated by the Legislature, any gifts, grants, or
39 donations made to the fund, and any other available revenue.